Message Text

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UNCLAS PARIS 17199

PASS COMMERCE, BDC/LD FOR D. PETERSON AND P. WAGNER; CENSUS FOR S. KALLEK

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: WORKING PARTY NO.9 OF THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS, JUNE 8-10, 1977

1. (A) WP REVIEWED THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION ON SHORT-TERM QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS WITH REGARD TO TIMELINESS AND COVERAGE. US DEL ADMITTED THAT DATA FOR THE U.S. ARE NOT REACHING THE SECRETARIAT ON A REGULAR TIMELY SCHEDULE. WE WILL REVIEW, THEREFORE, CURRENT PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE HOW TO SPEED UP DATA SUBMISSION.

B. INCOMPLETE REPORTING OF ALL ITEMS BY ALL COUNTRIES
CONTINUES TO COMPLICATE THE PRESENTATION OF COMBINED DATA
ON A REGIONAL BASIS. CONSIDERING THE PROBLEMS OF
WEIGHTING BECAUSE OF CHANGING MONEY RATES AND COVERAGE,
THE WP DECIDED TO CALCULATE REGIONAL INDICES ONLY FOR
THE INDEX OF PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT, AND TO ADD THESE ITEMS
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TO THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION. WP ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PRESENTING THE QUANTITATIVE SERIES DATA BY BROAD END-USE CATEGORIES COVERING CONSUMER GOODS, INVESTMENT GOODS, AND INTERMEDIATE GOODS. WP AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT FURTHER EXPLORATION IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPARABILITY BY COUNTRY. THIS ASPECT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE WP'S NEXT MEETING.

2. THE WP NOTED THE SLOW PROGRESS IN THE AREA
OF QUALITATIVE INDICATORS DUE TO BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS, AND
RECOMMENDED THAT THE FULL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE CONSIDER
THIS PROJECT AT ITS NEXT MEETING LATER THIS MONTH AND
INCLUDE IT IN THE 1978 WORK PROGRAM. WP ALSO DISCUSSED
HOW SOME PRELIMINARY WORK COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING
THIS INTERIM PERIOD WHILE NO FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. WHILE
SWEDISH AND FRENCH DELEGATIONS OFFERED STATISTICAL
ASSISTANCE, WP AGREED THAT OECD RESOURCES MUST BE
OBTAINED FOR A VIABLE PROGRAM. THIS ORPGRAM IS PARTICULARLY
IMPORTANT FOR MOST MEMBER COUNTRIES SINCE IT WILL BE
VIRTUALLY THEIR ONLY SOURCE OF TIMELY INFORMATION ON
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

3. NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 2-4, 1977. KATZ

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